

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A video standards converter (VSC) comprising:
 - a first input module converting a first analog input video signal to a first digital signal;
 - a second input module converting a first analog input video signal to a first digital signal;
 - a bus attached to the first and second input modules;
 - a first output module attached to the bus and having a first video standard;
 - a second output module attached to the bus and having a second video standard; and
 - wherein the first and second video standards are different.
2. The VSC of claim 1 and comprising a third input module converting a third analog input video signal to a first digital signal.
3. The VSC of claim 1 wherein the first input module is a dual-input module connected to two input video signals.
4. The VSC of claim 1 wherein at least one of the output modules is a dual-output module connected to two video display devices.
5. The VSC of claim 1 wherein the first and second video standards are selected from the group consisting of OEC Hi-Res monochrome, Dual NTSC/PAL S-Video, VESA computer video, HDTV, and Digital Video.
6. The VSC of claim 1 wherein a video standard of the first input module is different than a video standard of the second input module.
7. The VSC of claim 1 wherein a video standard of the bus is different than a video standard of at least one of the input modules, and wherein the at least one

of the input modules drives the bus to convert the video standard of one of the first and second input video signals to the video standard of the bus.

8. The VSC of claim 7 wherein a video standard of the bus is different than at least one of the first and second video standards and the bus drives at least one of the output modules.

9. A video standards converter (VSC) comprising:
a first input module having a first video standard and converting a first input video signal from the first video standard to the third video standard;
a second input module having a second video standard and converting a second input video signal from the second video standard to the third video standard;
a bus attached to the first and second input modules and having a third video standard;
a first output module attached to the bus and having a fourth video standard;
a second output module attached to the bus and having a fifth video standard; and
wherein the fourth video standard is different from the fifth video standard.

10. The VSC of claim 9 wherein at least one of the input modules is a dual-input module having connectors for connection to a pair of sources of the same video standard.

11. The VSC of claim 9 wherein at least one of the output modules is a dual-output module having two connectors for connection to devices with the same video standard.

12. The VSC of claim 9 wherein the first and second video standards are selected from the group consisting of OEC Hi-Res monochrome, Dual NTSC/PAL S-Video, VESA computer video, HDTV, and Digital Video.

13. A system for converting video standards comprising:
 a first input module receiving an analog video signal from a first video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal;
 a second input module receiving an analog video signal from a second video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal;
 a bus attached to the first and second input modules;
 an input selection and control device (ISC) for selecting at least one of the first and second input modules to drive the bus;
 first and second output modules attached to the bus;
 a first video device attached to the first output module; and
 wherein the first output module converts a standard of a video signal from a bus standard to a standard of the first video device.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein at least one of the first and second input modules converts a standard of a video signal to match the video standard of the bus.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein a video standard of the first output module is different from a video standard of the second output module.

16. The system of claim 13 and comprising a computer for controlling the ISC.

17. The system of claim 16 and comprising a foot-pedal for controlling the computer.

18. The system of claim 13 wherein at least one of the input modules is a dual-input module having a pair of connectors connected to sources having identical standards.

19. The system of claim 13 wherein at least one of the output modules is a dual-output module having a pair of connectors connected to two video devices having identical video standards.

20. The system of claim 13 and comprising a third output module, wherein the first, second, and third output modules have different video standards.

21. The system of claim 13 and comprising:

a second video device; and

wherein the first video device is attached to the first output module;

wherein the second video device is attached to the second output module;

wherein the first and second video devices have different standards.

22. A system for converting video standards comprising:

a first input module receiving an analog video signal from a first video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal;

a second input module receiving an analog video signal from a second video source and converting the analog video signal to a digital video signal;

a bus attached to the first and second input modules;

an input selection and control device (ISC) for selecting at least one of the first and second input modules to drive the bus;

a computer for controlling the ISC;

first and second output modules attached to the bus;

a first video device attached to the first output module;

a second video device attached to the second output module; and

wherein the first output module converts a standard of a video signal from a bus standard to a standard of the first video device;

wherein a video standard of the first output module is different from a video standard of the second output module;

wherein the first and second video devices have different standards.

23. A system for displaying images from two sources, the system comprising:

a first input module converting a first analog video signal to a first digital video signal;

a second input module converting a second analog video signal to a second digital video signal;

a bus attached to the first and second input modules;

a first output module attached to the bus;

a second output module attached to the bus;

a first display device attached to one of the first and second output modules; and

wherein the bus drives the first output module to convert the first and second digital video signals to respective first and second analog display signals containing images for reception by the first display device;

wherein at least a portion of each image from the first and second analog display signals is displayed on the first display device.

24. The system of claim 23 wherein images from one of the first and second analog display signals are displayed in a quadrant of the first display device.

25. The system of claim 23 wherein padding is positioned adjacent at least a portion of an image from the first or second analog video display signals.

26. The system of claim 23 and comprising an ISC for selecting one of the first and second video signals to be a window image and the other video signal to be the background image.

27. The system of claim 23 and comprising:
a third input module attached to the bus.

28. The system of claim 23 and comprising an ISC for controlling positions at which the images from the first and second analog video display signals are displayed on the first display device.

29. The system of claim 23 and comprising:
a second display device; and
wherein the first display device is attached to the first output module;

wherein the second display device is attached to the second output module;
wherein the first and second display devices have different standards.

30. A system for displaying images from two sources, the system comprising:
a first input module converting a first analog video signal to a first digital video signal;
a second input module converts a second analog video signal to a second digital video signal;
a bus attached to the first and second input modules;
a first output module attached to the bus;
a second output module attached to the bus;
a first display device attached to the first output module;
a second display device attached to the second output module; and
wherein the first output module converts the first and second digital video signals to respective first and second analog display signals containing images for reception by the first display device;
wherein at least a portion of each image from the first and second analog display signals is displayed on the first display device;
wherein the first and second display devices have different standards.

31. The system of claim 30 and comprising an ISC for selecting one of the first and second analog video signals to supply window images and the other analog video signal to supply background images.

32. A method for converting a plurality of video sources having a plurality of different standards, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a video standards converter (VSC) comprising:
a first input module;
a second input module;
a bus attached to the first and second input modules;
a first output module attached to the bus;

a second output module attached to the bus;
employing one of the first and second input modules to convert
a video signal from analog to digital;
employing the bus to drive one of the first and second output
modules to convert the video signal from digital to analog;
selecting one of the first and second input modules to place a
video signal onto the bus; and
positioning the video signal as the signal is placed on the bus.

33. The method of claim 32 and comprising the step of providing a third
output module attached to the bus.

34. The method of claim 32 and comprising the steps of:
providing a display device attached to one of the output modules; and
displaying images of the video signal on the display device attached to
the output module.

35. A method of displaying images from two sources, the method
comprising the steps of:

providing a video standards converter comprising:

a first input module connected to a first source;
a second input module connected to a second source;
a bus attached to the first and second input modules;
a first output module attached to the bus;
a second output module attached to the bus;
an input standards converter (ISC) in communication with the
input modules;

providing a display device connected to one of the output
modules;

employing the first input module to convert a video signal of the first
source from analog to digital;

employing the second input module to convert a video signal of the second source from analog to digital;

employing the bus to drive the first and second output modules to convert the video signals from digital to analog; and

positioning images from the first and second sources on the display device.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the step of positioning images minimizes any overlap of the images of the first source and the images of the second source.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the step of positioning images comprises the step of selecting a quadrant of the display device in which to position the images of one of the sources.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the step of positioning images comprises positioning the images of one of the first and second sources in a quadrant containing a corner of the display device that is farthest from a corner of the display device contained in the quadrant selected for positioning the images of the other of the first and second sources.